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# The HSUS Condemns Psychological Experimentation on Animals

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OF THE UNITED STATES

# THE Humane Society

## CLOSE-UP REPORT

### ***The HSUS Condemns Psychological Experimentation on Animals***

**T**he baby monkey had been allowed to live with its mother for only a few months before the experiment began. Seeking answers about the importance of mother/infant contact in a social group, researchers abruptly took the mother monkey away, leaving the baby with only other monkeys as companions. By the second day, it seemed very tired and ignored its companions as they repeatedly invited it to play. By the third day, the scientists observed the whimpering monkey's lethargy as it turned into a deadly depression. At the end of the day, they removed the monkey's lifeless little body from the cage.

Despite many decades of similar experimentation, and despite empirical data that tell us that offspring reared by their mothers are generally healthier and happier than those that are not, the experimenters in this project recorded their conclusions just as though they had made some new psychological breakthrough. The revelation? Mother love is essential to infant survival!

"That monkey certainly would not have starved to death within such a short period," said HSUS Director of Laboratory Animal Welfare John McArdle. "It plainly lost the will to live and died of grief over the loss of its mother."

This experiment wasn't conducted in the Dark Ages when humanity had little understanding of psychology and even less regard for the well-being of animals. It took place just a few years ago, and the world learned nothing new as a result of this monkey's lonely death.

For almost a century, millions of cats, dogs, monkeys, and other laboratory animals have fallen victim to the misguided notion that by torturing animals we may someday find the golden key that unlocks the dark corners and pas-

sageways of human psychology. Heedless of any relevance the experiments may have to the human condition or of the obvious differences between humans and other animals, experimental psychologists are exercising unbridled freedom to inflict on animals the whole range of suffering, from emotional trauma, like that experienced by the doomed infant monkey, to outright physical torture. Animals have been blinded and

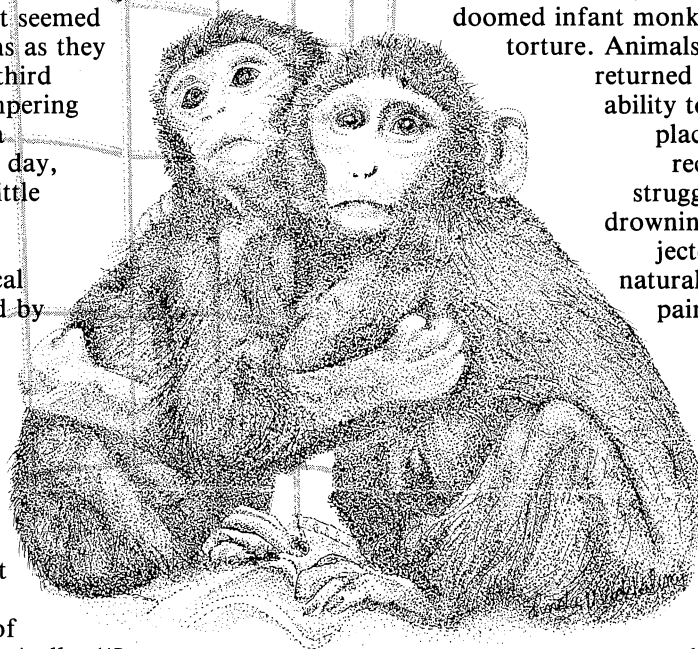
returned to the wild to test their ability to survive. They've been placed in tanks of water to record how long they will struggle against an inevitable drowning. They have been subjected to all manner of unnatural conditions, stress, and pain to see how much they can take before being driven to cannibalism.

And, because their behavioral response to the agony that is deliberately inflicted upon them is the important factor in the researchers' observations, the hapless victims are denied painkillers. These

outrages have been repeated, with only minor variations, over and over again.

Experimental psychology is particularly fiendish because it's the only area of research in which animals are deliberately tortured as part of the experiment's design. And it is the area of research where the greatest suffering is created for the least amount of good.

"Conclusions from these tests," reports Dr. McArdle, "are usually intuitively obvious or determinable from our own collective self-experience; available by analyzing human clinical data or studies of animals in their natural set-



*continued on back page*

# What Is Experimental Psychology?

**E**xperimental psychology is a discipline which virtually requires inflicting some degree of misery on animal subjects. The amount of discomfort can range from mild frustration to searing pain. Since it is generally considered immoral to tinker with human minds, researchers, instead, use animals in experiments that are often poorly thought out, extraordinarily cruel, and totally irrelevant to human behavior or mental suffering.

As opposed to ethology (the study of animals in their natural environment and in the context of their natural behavior, needs, and social roles), experimental psychology is a slave to the laboratory. In the lab, victims live in cages, and animals that need social interaction are frequently isolated from each other with only the sporadic visits from technicians to keep them company. The visits from those technicians are often harbingers of impending torture: another electric shock; another needle; another struggle to stay afloat in a tank of water. Animals are invariably stressed as a result of any laboratory environment, and their normal behaviors changed. How, then, can any conclusions based on behavioral changes that are the result of an experiment itself be useful or valid? They can't be, not when the normal behavior of the animals is being distorted and disregarded.

Just as people tend to shout at someone who doesn't speak their language in a vain attempt at being understood, researchers increase the pain they cause in animals in order to elicit reactions they can then try to apply to human behavior.

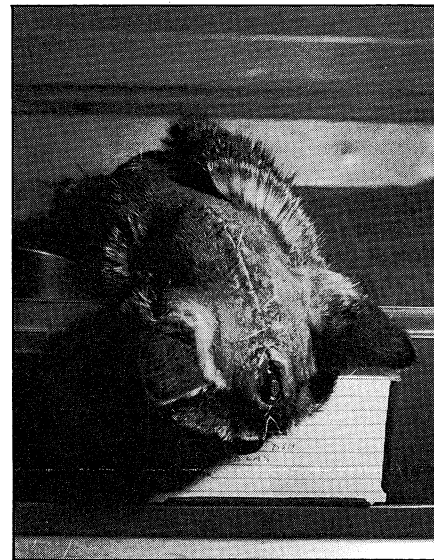
Dr. Roger Ulrich, once a principal researcher in aggression experimentation, adds that the very act of conducting these experiments not only fails to find cures for human mental illness, but it also promotes aggression in humans.

"When science formally approves of torturing animals," said Dr. Ulrich, "it is directly encouraging us to be inhumane creatures. Treating animals cruelly is not going to teach us to treat each other any better."

The tortures mankind has devised to inflict on animals in the name of science are myriad. Drug addiction and agonizing withdrawal; surgical

implantation of electrodes designed to deliver excruciating pain; and endless blasts of electrical shock that cause animals to shriek, defecate, and self-mutilate in fear and pain are all tools of the experimental psychologists' indefensible trade. In the hopes of eradicating lunacy and promoting perpetual peace of mind, human beings have subjected animals to these conditions—and worse. At the end of the day in the laboratory, experimental psychologists can hang up their white coats and leave behind a darkened room of dogs tormented and shock-weary, cats deformed and invaded by implanted electrodes, and monkeys anxious and withdrawn in the far recesses of their cages.

Now is the time for us to end the inexcusable torment of animals in the psychology laboratory. Once scientists are forced to stop their capricious, destructive tampering with animals' minds, responsible researchers can devote themselves to finding the true causes and cures of human mental illness.



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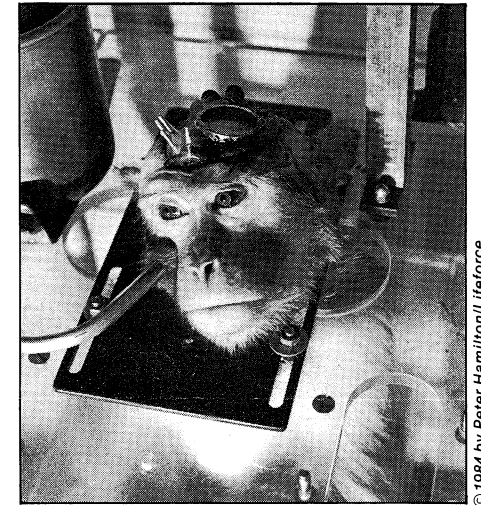
*Through the knob on the cat's head, a researcher can plug electricity into the animal as easily as plugging in a lamp. Sloppy surgical sutures are evidence of an unskilled researcher.*

# What's Wrong With Using Animals As Models In Experimental Psychology?

**T**he use of experimental psychology on animals began in the late nineteenth century as an outgrowth of experiments on animals designed to find cures for infectious diseases. At that time—although no longer true today—animal models were useful and necessary. The research community made a crucial error, though, when it concluded that, because animal models worked with these types of diseases, they could be used to banish all the devils plaguing humanity. Scientists started using animals to research noninfectious diseases such as cancer, and they began to probe mental illness as well.

Both noninfectious diseases and mental illnesses are subject to more variables than a simple invasion by a germ. With mental illness especially, the severity of the disease is influenced by the subject's environment, peculiarities of the subject's species, and the genetic history and special needs of that particular sufferer, whether it is a runaway child struggling to survive on the city streets or an orphaned monkey in a sterile laboratory cage yearning for its mother.

Although animals are clearly different from humans in their needs, backgrounds, and ways of expressing suffering, all do have one thing in common: the ability to suffer extreme emotional and physical pain. Animals are not models for human mental illness, but they can certainly express misery in a way anyone can understand.



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*Holes were drilled into this monkey's head in order to implant an electrode device. Doomed to sit continuously in a plexiglass restraining chair for as long as three months, it will suffer electric shocks applied directly to the brain. Since the upright sitting position is not a natural posture for nonhuman primates, it might suffer internal injuries as well.*

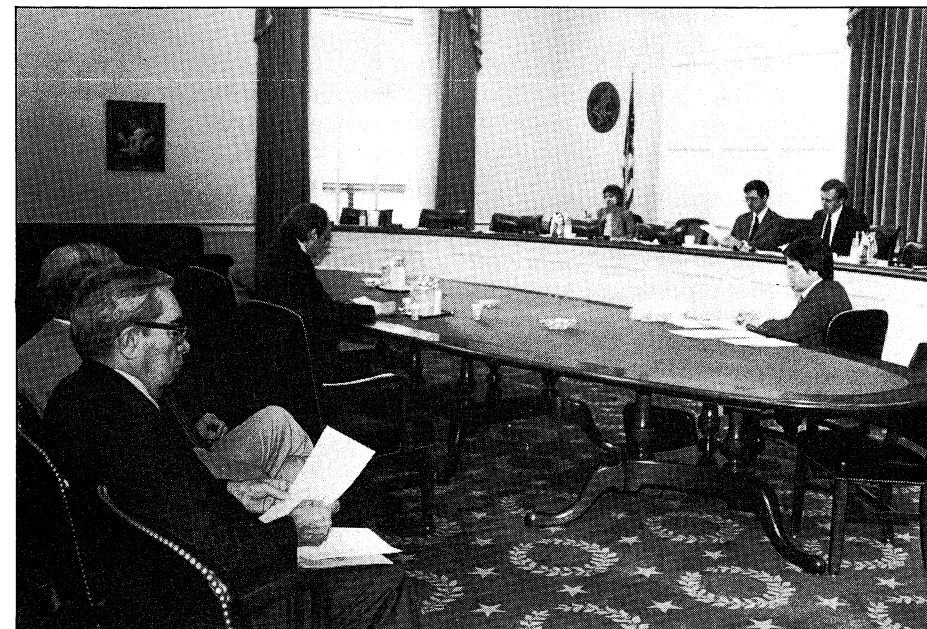
# What The HSUS Is Doing

**T**he HSUS is instituting a major push to abolish the use of animals in experimental psychology. We are

- presenting testimony to Congress asking that no funding be given to psychological experiments that use laboratory animals.
- supporting H.R. 5098, a federal bill aimed at reducing duplication of animal research by mandating a comprehensive listing of all research projects by the national medical library and requiring that all animal-research proposals be submitted for review.
- petitioning the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to regard the use of human clinical and/or ethological observations as the primary resource for psychological research

data. We are asking it to require from its grant applicants a detailed explanation as to why observations on human beings would not be appropriate in their work. We also believe that ethologists and clinicians should sit on all grant review panels to suggest alternative methods for obtaining relevant data.

- requesting NIMH to allocate funds for the development of alternatives to traditional animal models.
- pressuring the American Psychological Association (APA) to establish rigorous guidelines for eliminating painful procedures and using alternatives in experimental psychology.
- cosponsoring, as a part of Mobilization for Animals, the first North American rally to protest the use of animals in experimental psychology.



*HSUS Director of Laboratory Animal Welfare John McArdle testifies before the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on behalf of laboratory animals. Diligent lobbying on Capitol Hill is critical to protect animals successfully.*



—The HSUS

continued from p. 1

ting; or simply not worth doing."

Modern human behavior is so little influenced by the basic drives for comfort, shelter, and nutrition that it is inappropriate to try to extrapolate data on human suffering from the behavior of a lab animal responding to deprivation of those needs. Nevertheless, scientists continue to try to recreate a human being's mental condition in a lab animal.

How can addicting a monkey to morphine tell researchers anything about the factors leading to human addiction when they have no way of quantifying or recreating in that animal specific conditions of environment, inherited susceptibility to addiction, social pressure, and character disorders? It can't! Yet scientists use findings from such experiments to hypothesize on the characteristics of human addiction every day.

What's more, in their zeal to "see what will happen if...", experimental psychologists can completely overlook obvious physical differences between naturally occurring human disorders and symptoms induced in an animal. These differences should automatically invalidate the conclusions of such experiments. Take, for instance, the study of human seizures, such as those that occur in epileptics. To simulate these seizures, researchers (who are not required to have training in veterinary medicine) drill holes in the skulls of rats and cats, insert wires in the brain, allow the animals to recover to full consciousness, and then send

a charge of electricity into the animals' brains to throw them into seizures. Although the animals wildly flail about as human epileptics do, a careful study of the brains of these animals will show that the resulting damage is quite different from that found in humans suffering from epilepsy. The causes of the human and animal seizures are so different from one another that it is ludicrous to assume that the cure—that ultimate goal presumed to be sought by experimenters torturing these animals—will be the same.

Despite growing awareness of the inherent rights of animals to be treated humanely, there is no law which ensures humane handling or requires meticulous evaluation of proposed psychology experiments *before* they happen. There is also no law that requires the development and use of alternatives to these heinous experiments.

Alternatives *do* exist. If we want to study causes of and cures for human behavioral problems, we should refer to the great volumes of case histories that we have amassed through the centuries. If we want to study the causes of and cures for animal problems, we should observe the animal in its natural environment so we can evaluate its behavior on its own terms. To use animals in such unnatural settings as laboratories to study human psychological problems wastes precious time and millions of dollars annually in our pursuit of health; provides wrong, redundant, or unnecessary information; and subjects animals to untold terror and torture.

It is time to condemn actively, without question or qualification, all use of animals in psychological experimentation.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

Write to your congressman and ask him/her to cosponsor H.R. 5098. Also send the enclosed postcard to Representative Henry A. Waxman, asking him to hold hearings on this bill.



—HSUS/Smith

Tell Congress it is time to end federal funding of psychological experimentation on live animals. The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) is the primary funding agent for such research projects. Use the pre-printed postcards that accompany this *Close-Up Report* to reach key members of Congress with your message.

Write to:

Dr. Frederick A. King, Director  
Yerkes Regional Primate  
Research Center  
Emory University  
Atlanta, GA 30322

Dr. King is chairman of the APA's Committee on Animal Research and Experimentation (CARE). Ask him to encourage the APA to establish grants specifically for research into alternatives in experimental psychology and

to have equal representation of the humane community and the scientific community on its CARE committee.

Contact your local university to find out if its psychology department is using animals in its teaching laboratories; conducting animal research; and/or actively seeking alternatives in both research and teaching.

Help The HSUS break new ground in the protection of laboratory animals. Remember, experimental psychology is one area of research in which it is clear that no human good results from the unspeakable suffering of animals. Your tax-deductible contribution will support us in our work to abolish this and other abuses of animals.



The Humane Society of the United States  
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